

To: R1NewsClips[R1NewsClips@epa.gov]
From: Elliott, Rodney
Sent: Thur 8/20/2015 11:20:15 AM
Subject: Daily NEWSCLIPS, Thursday, August 20th, 2015 r1newsclips

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Hot Humid Air and Hot Dry Air Are Both Dehydrating and Dangerous in Summer, Reports Fresh Water Advocate Sharon Kleyne	08/19/2015	The Advocate Online,	CT
Board to review California's green jobs measure sooner	08/19/2015	The Advocate Online,	CT
State grant program to help schools buy propane buses	08/19/2015	The Associated Press	NY
Beijing pollution awaits runners at worlds, just like '08	08/19/2015	The Associated Press	NY
Board moves up meeting to review green jobs measure	08/19/2015	The Associated Press	NY
California's New Energy and Climate Goals Will Create Jobs and Boost the Economy	08/19/2015	Boston.com	MA
Editorial: Targeting methane: a wise regulatory step on fracking	08/19/2015	The Middletown Press - Online	CT

Obama to Visit New Orleans for Storm Milestone	New York Times, The	
China's Carbon Emissions May Be Overstated, Study Finds	08/19/2015 New York Times, The	NY
Harvard study cuts estimate of China's global warming pollution	08/19/2015 Telegram & Gazette Online	MA
We need to control climate disruption	08/19/2015 Telegraph Online	NH
Chemicals' Health Risks Can Linger	08/19/2015 Wall Street Journal Online	NY
China's Global Warming Pollution Estimates Cut in Harvard Study	08/19/2015 Washington Post Online	DC

Brownfields / Superfund / Other Cleanups (6)

EPA Pollution Spill A Gold Mine For Hypocrites	08/20/2015 Hartford Courant Online	CT
Last official charged in chemical spill pleads guilty	08/19/2015 Associated Press Online	NY
Air Force agrees to treat contaminated wells at Pease	08/19/2015 New Hampshire Union Leader Online	NH
Last Official Charged in Chemical Spill Pleads Guilty	08/19/2015 New York Times Online, The	NY
When a River Runs Orange	08/19/2015 New York Times, The	NY
Last Official Charged in 2014 West Virginia Chemical Spill Pleads Guilty	08/19/2015 Wall Street Journal Online	NY

Climate Change (9)

Greenwich has its own climate change committee	08/19/2015 Advocate, The	CT
Oil lease sale western Gulf's lowest ever in bids, money	08/19/2015 Associated Press Online	NY
Oil lease sale western Gulf's lowest ever in bids, money	08/19/2015 Associated Press Online	NY
Shale-rich Colorado welcomes EPA methane proposals	08/19/2015 Boston.com	MA
EPA Proposes Cuts To Methane Emissions At Potential Expense Of U.S. Markets	08/19/2015 Boston.com	MA
Lobster population shifting north; ocean warming blamed	08/19/2015 Exeter's Daily Democrat Online	NH

Climate change foes can't stand the heat of the truth: Viewpoint

Climate change may have driven dog evolution	08/19/2015	Washington Post Online	DC
Main Street Morning: EPA releases new rules for methane emissions	08/19/2015	Washington Post Online	DC

Energy Issues (6)

Appalachian Research Initiative for Environmental Science Powers Researchers the "Creek Geeks" and More	08/19/2015	Advocate Online, The	CT
A Greener Way To Start School	08/19/2015	Cape Cod Today.com	MA
Future Wind opposition	08/19/2015	Exbury Clipper	MA
Durham to celebrate 'Drive Electric Week' Updated at 12:44 PM	08/19/2015	Flower's Daily Democrat Online	NH
Residents dig composting program	08/19/2015	Hampton Union - Online, The	NH
Another View: Ban on plastic bags is no sure bet for environment	08/19/2015	New Haven Register	CT

Research and Development (5)

Heated Air Kills Super Lice	08/20/2015	Boston.com	MA
Greenwich woman begins Kickstarter for Waterbands	08/19/2015	Advocate, The	CT
Plaintiffs seek \$750 million in Fort Detrick pollution suit	08/19/2015	Associated Press Online	NY
Smith Named Conservationist Of The Year Posthumously	08/19/2015	Cape Cod Chronicle, The	MA
Electric-Car Battery Suppliers Narrow	08/19/2015	Wall Street Journal Online	NY

Toxics (3)

Interior Department to lead review of Colorado river spill	08/19/2015	Boston Herald Online	MA
Interior Department to Lead Review of Colorado River Spill	08/19/2015	New York Times Online, The	NY
Invasive Plants Spread Fast in Billion-Dollar Threat-Study	08/19/2015	New York Times Online, The	NY

Water (6)

Cyanide in Waters Near China Blast Site	08/20/2015	New York Times	NY
277 Times Acceptable Level-Government Report		Online, The	
Southeastern Indiana lake controls flooding, draws visitors	08/19/2015	Associated Press	NY
Study sees dying wildlife, bigger fires if drought lasts	08/19/2015	Associated Press	NY
Shaheen tours Ossipee Pine Barrens	08/19/2015	Conway Daily Sun - NH Online, The	
Former Executive Pleads Guilty in Toxic Spill in West Virginia	08/19/2015	New York Times, The	NY
Hudson beach closed due to bacteria bacteria located	08/19/2015	The Telegraph Online	NH

Other (6)

Antibiotic-resistant 'superbug' found at California hospital	08/19/2015	Associated Press	NY
Don't yank irrigation meters without study	08/19/2015	Flower's Daily Democrat Online	NH
Portsmouth requests voluntary water conservation	08/19/2015	Hampton Union - Online, The	NH
EPA Nominees Seen Hindered By Agency Slowing Responses To Congress	08/19/2015	Inside EPA	VA
Advocates Urge EPA To Strengthen Disclosure Of RMP Data In Future Rule	08/19/2015	Inside EPA	VA
Greenfield could soon join cities banning plastic bags	08/19/2015	Republican Online	MA

News Headline: Barge-cleaning facility issue before Metro Council today, a day after DEQ hears opponents' concerns |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...hours voicing their opposition to the state air permit on the basis of air quality concerns, a need for more details on the...

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News Headline: Hot Humid Air and Hot Dry Air Are Both Dehydrating and Dangerous in Summer, Reports Fresh Water Advocate Sharon Kleyne |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...addition to all other fluids, and more when perspiring heavily. The act of drinking water also cools the body. Warm water is...

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News Headline: Board to review California's green jobs measure sooner | .

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...to raise taxes on corporations and send billions of dollars to schools for energy efficiency projects. The state Energy Commission...

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News Headline: State grant program to help schools buy propane buses |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana is kicking off a grant program for school districts that wish to purchase propane-powered school buses.

The competitive grant program, operated by the state Office of Energy Development, will dole out shares from a \$300,000 pool of state money.

Only school districts that have their own buses are eligible for the subsidy. School districts must also purchase a minimum of two buses.

The grant program is geared to help cover the difference in cost between propane and diesel power buses.

The office said Wednesday schools can benefit from propane school buses in different ways including decreasing schoolchildren's exposure to harmful emissions and lowering maintenance costs through the use of a cleaner burning fuel.

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News Headline: Beijing pollution awaits runners at worlds, just like '08 |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: BEIJING (AP) - The drifting smoke from forest fires sometimes makes it difficult for marathoner Heather Lieberg to take a deep breath during her afternoon training runs in the hills of Montana.

Even on days when the local advisory lists the air quality as "unhealthy for sensitive groups," Lieberg is out there chugging away through the hazy and hot conditions.

No better way to acclimate her body to what awaits in Beijing for the world championships.

"I've literally trained when there's ash falling on me, where they say 'Do not go outside,'" said Lieberg, a 36-year-old from Helena. "My lungs are definitely ready."

Seven years after the Olympics sparked talk of a dramatic clean-up of pollution in Beijing, a milky haze still covers the city on most days and is expected to be there when the marathons take place - Saturday for the men, and Aug. 30 for the women.

According to a recent study conducted by physicists at the University of California, Berkeley, 1.6 million people die each year in China from heart, lung and stroke-related problems due to polluted air. The statistic is a reminder that while the Olympics may serve to shed light on a host city's environmental problems, they don't necessarily solve them.

With the 2022 Winter Olympics set to also take place in Beijing, the environment is likely to stay in the spotlight, in part because of plans to bring tons of artificial snow to the relatively dry mountains outside Beijing.

It's as true for Rio de Janeiro today as it was for Beijing in 2008, Athens in 2004, Sydney in 2000 or almost any other host, all of which have had their problems with air and/or water, said John Karamichas, author of the 2013 book "The Olympic Games and the Environment."

"All these issues were, in one way or another, addressed for the duration of the games," Karamichas said. "Environmental legacy will depend on the post-event political processes."

An expert from the World Health Organization, Martin Taylor, said government figures have shown some improvements in Beijing's air quality since the Olympics left town "but there is still some way to go before (it) meets international safe standards."

Competition conditions for the Olympic athletes have been at the forefront recently with the Rio Games less than a year away.

An analysis commissioned by The Associated Press found viruses running rampant in Rio's sewage-strewn water. The International Olympic Committee has made no plans to test for viruses, sticking with a plan to only monitor bacteria. Some swimmers have fallen ill after competing in the water, though the direct correlation between the water and the illness is difficult to make.

Running in heavily polluted air carries some health risk because of particulates that can clog up passageways and increased ozone that mainly bothers people with

asthma. It can also affect finely tuned athletes who operate at maximum lung capacity. In 2008, the marathon world record holder, asthma sufferer Haile Gebrselassie, said he wouldn't run the race. "The pollution in China is a threat to my health," he said.

But he was an exception. And even though pollution readings distributed by the U.S. Embassy's Beijing Air Quality Monitor frequently shows the air quality in the "unhealthy" range, the races at world championships will go on.

Questions about if runners should wear masks for competition are resurfacing. Scientists think that would produce, at best, mixed results. The masks do filter out particulates but most elite runners are creatures of habit and not used to wearing them. Distance runner Galen Rupp won U.S. championships wearing a mask in 2011, but he had trained extensively with it, and it was used to filter out pollen, not pollution.

"One can't with a straight face say that it doesn't do anything," said Dr. Sverre Vedal, a health science professor at the University of Washington. "But one of the issues that comes up is the practicality of wearing a mask if you're performing."

Last October, the Beijing Marathon began with thousands of participants wearing masks. The air quality reading that day was considered hazardous, and a level at which the U.S. Embassy says everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion.

Big events such as the Olympics and world championships put authorities on timelines to mitigate the problems, at least temporarily.

For the track meet, local organizers are following a model nicknamed "APEC Blue" - a Chinese government program that produced blue skies last November for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

This approach calls on nearby provinces to cut down on the amount of pollution drifting in from factories outside the city limits. Officials also will restrict the number of cars on the streets of Beijing starting Thursday, two days before the world championships begin. They took half the cars off the road each day starting a few weeks before the Olympics.

A handful of athletes the AP interviewed said they're heading to Beijing knowing they can't do much about the pollution.

"I'm running for only 12 seconds," American hurdler David Oliver said. "Now, if I were a marathoner, maybe I'd pay more attention."

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News Headline: Board moves up meeting to review green jobs measure |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - A citizens board tasked with overseeing projects funded by a California ballot measure intended to generate clean-energy jobs will move up its first meeting to early September, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon said Wednesday.

The Los Angeles Democrat's announcement came after The Associated Press reported Monday that the board has never met and had not planned to meet until October or November.

Voters approved Proposition 39 in 2012 to raise taxes on corporations and send billions of dollars to schools for energy efficiency projects.

School districts are applying for funding, but so far the measure has generated barely one-tenth of the promised jobs, and the state has no comprehensive list of work done or energy saved.

De Leon, the state Energy Commission and Tom Steyer, a billionaire and philanthropist who campaigned with a personal \$30 million to pass the measure, maintain the program is on track.

"We're taking our time because I think that we want to do things right," de Leon said at a news conference on late-term legislation. "We want to make sure there's accountability and transparency."

Though de Leon initially indicated he would be open to a legislative hearing on the proposition, his staff later clarified that the only hearing will be by the Citizens Oversight Board. They said, however, that there is no reason the board should have met sooner.

Democrats and Republicans have called for a legislative hearing to examine how Proposition 39 funds are being spent.

"It's really too early for oversight, truth be told. It's barely getting off the ground," de Leon said.

Schools have so far received \$297 million for projects, \$153 million of which has been spent on consulting, energy audits and planning.

Kate Gordon, a member of the Citizens Oversight Board, also defended Proposition 39 in a blog post Tuesday.

"Evaluating Proposition 39 after just over a year of its 5-year operation is like calling the Super Bowl after just a week of preseason games. It's simply not reasonable,"

wrote Gordon, former director of the energy and climate program at Steyer's Next Generation, an alternative energy advocacy group.

Gov. Jerry Brown said Wednesday the Department of Energy has assured him Proposition 39 spending is on track.

"I'll take a look at that, but just know, government has a hard time collecting money and, surprisingly, it has a hard time spending money," Brown, a Democrat, said.

The challenges include myriad hoops that government officials have to go through to ensure they are following laws, Brown said, noting public spending must move at a different pace than private spending.

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News Headline: California's New Energy and Climate Goals Will Create Jobs and Boost the Economy |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: ...goals into law. These company executives say that increasing the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and...

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News Headline: Editorial: Targeting methane: a wise regulatory step on fracking |

Outlet Full Name: Middletown Press - Online

News Text: The Obama administration released new pollution rules on oil and natural gas production Tuesday to predictable howls from industry. The...

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News Headline: Obama to Visit New Orleans for Storm Milestone |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times, The

News Text: WASHINGTON -- President Obama will travel to New Orleans next week for the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the costliest disasters in United States history.

Mr. Obama will use the Aug. 27 anniversary to promote his administration's efforts to restore the economy and infrastructure of the region, which include building barriers to protect against a recurrence of the disaster, according to the White House.

The anniversary also comes amid a string of events and rule changes that demonstrate the president's increasing focus on climate change.

Hurricane Katrina serves as a stark reminder for Mr. Obama of the types of disasters the United States will probably face unless drastic efforts are taken here and internationally to curtail certain kinds of heat-trapping pollution.

Mr. Obama is scheduled to travel to Alaska at the end of the month to visit the Arctic Circle, where he will discuss climate change.

This month, he unveiled final rules meant to cut emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants, and to increase the proportion of the nation's electricity generated from renewable sources like solar and wind.

On Tuesday, the administration released proposed rules to cut back on the emissions of methane, another gas that contributes to climate change.

Hurricane Katrina left more than 1,800 people dead, and recovery efforts are estimated to have cost more than \$100 billion.

The hurricane also came to be viewed by many as a political disaster for President George W. Bush, whose administration was seen as having offered a belated and ineffective response to the overwhelming needs in the region.

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News Headline: China's Carbon Emissions May Be Overstated, Study Finds |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times, The

News Text: HONG KONG -- Scientists may have been overestimating China's emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas driving global warming, by more than 10 percent, because of inaccurate assumptions about the country's coal-burning, according to a study published on Wednesday.

The study's finding, published in the journal Nature, does not mean that the total level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is any lower than scientists had thought. That accumulation is measured independently. Rather, the finding may affect discussions of how much responsibility China bears for global warming, compared with other nations.

"This doesn't change the fact that China is still the largest emitter in the world," said Dabo Guan, a professor of climate-change economics at the University of East Anglia in England who is one of the paper's two dozen authors, in a telephone interview from Beijing. "But it shows we need to know a more accurate base line for emissions, not only for China but also for the other emissions giants."

The study looked in detail at the coal used as fuel in China, and found that it is generally less rich in carbon and is burned less efficiently than scientists had assumed. That means that each ton of burned coal yields less carbon dioxide than had been thought (as well as less energy, and more ash).

China's proposed commitments to curtail its emissions of greenhouse gases are crucial to a new international agreement on global warming, which governments hope to reach in Paris late this year. Climate change is also expected to figure in talks between President Obama and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, when Mr. Xi visits the United States next month.

Mr. Xi promised last year that China's emissions of carbon dioxide would stop growing by about 2030. Yet uncertainty surrounds just how much of the gas is billowing now from China's power plants, boilers, motor vehicles and industrial plants.

The scientists behind the new study said they analyzed more detailed information about China's coal quality, combustion performance across industries and total energy consumption than had previously been used.

"We measured thousands of samples of coal from mines across China, and found that the carbon content of the coal being burned in China is actually much lower than what has been assumed in previous estimates of emissions," Steven J. Davis, a greenhouse gas scientist at the University of California, Irvine, and one of the authors, said in emailed answers to questions.

Estimating a country's carbon dioxide emissions entails some scientific detective work. Researchers start with information about fossil fuel consumption, and then assess how much carbon is contained in those fuels and what fraction of that carbon is actually combusted and ends up in the atmosphere.

China does not publish official data on annual greenhouse-gas emissions, so "international organizations have to make larger assumptions" than are required for other major countries, said another author of the study, Glen Peters, a senior researcher at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research-Oslo.

Those assumptions often rely on coal carbon content and combustion data collected in the United States and Europe, said Zhu Liu, a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard University and another of the paper's authors. But China's rapidly growing economy mainly uses cheaper, less pure coal from local mines, often burned in less efficient furnaces and boilers than are typical in the West, Dr. Liu said.

"Basically, this is the first time we've applied real measurement of the coal quality on a national scale in China," Dr. Liu said. "The quality is not as good as developed countries, so if we use the same amount of coal, we overestimate the carbon content

of the coal, and so we overestimate the carbon emissions."

The researchers found that, on average, each lump of coal in China was 40 percent less potent as a source of carbon dioxide emissions than the default figure used for coal by the United Nations' scientific panel on climate change.

This made the researchers' estimate for China's total emissions markedly lower than those reached previously by monitoring projects financed by the United States government and the European Commission. The scientists reckon that in 2013, China produced 9.1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels and cement production, "which is 14 percent lower than the emissions reported by other prominent inventories," the study said.

That was despite another finding in the study, that official Chinese figures understated the country's overall energy consumption by about 10 percent from 2000 to 2012.

China's appetite for coal has dulled in the past few years. As economic growth has slowed, new sources of power have come online and the government has shut some smaller, dirtier boilers and furnaces to reduce air pollution. But China still accounts for about half the world's coal consumption, and experts say that the country's dependence on coal is unlikely to wane for many years.

Frank Jotzo, the director of the Center for Climate Economics and Policy at the Australian National University in Canberra, said it was "good news" that Chinese coal was yielding less carbon dioxide, "but it does not change the fundamentals, nor the challenge that China faces in getting away from coal." Dr. Jotzo was not involved in the new study.

The study looked at Chinese emissions up to 2013, so it does not reflect China's most recent efforts to curb pollution from fossil fuels. But the authors said those efforts would not significantly change their findings.

"The carbon content of coal is what it is," said Dr. Davis of the University of California, Irvine. "The gap between our estimates and previous ones may vary, depending on how much of the burned coal is coming from this mine or that mine in a given year, but as long as most of the coal being burned is from domestic sources, it probably won't have narrowed much."

He said the study might prompt new questions about how accurately scientists have been estimating other countries' emissions, and whether the world's forests have been absorbing as much carbon from the air as they think.

Dr. Liu of Harvard said that accurate data would be needed if a new international treaty on global warming, including national commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, was to succeed.

"If you don't have the exact numbers, all of the political promises are just some kind of numbers game," he said. "China has a plan, the U.S. has a plan, different countries have plans. But all of these plans are based on very broad data that has a lot of uncertainty."

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News Headline: Harvard study cuts estimate of China's global warming pollution | .

Outlet Full Name: Telegram & Gazette Online

News Text: China's fossil fuel emissions are lower than previously estimated, according to research led by academics at Harvard University.Chinese...

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News Headline: We need to control climate disruption | ..

Outlet Full Name: Telegraph Online

News Text: ...Electricity generation is responsible for 40 percent of the carbon pollution in America. As a result, the Environmental...

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News Headline: Chemicals' Health Risks Can Linger |

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: ...chemicals were stored at the warehouse, including 700 tons of highly toxic substances, according to China's official Xinhua News...

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News Headline: China's Global Warming Pollution Estimates Cut in Harvard Study |

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Outlet Full Name: Washington Post Online

News Text: (Bloomberg) -- China's fossil-fuel emissions are lower than than previously estimated, according to research led by academics at Harvard...

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News Headline: EPA Pollution Spill A Gold Mine For Hypocrites |

Outlet Full Name: Hartford Courant Online

News Text: ...and national politicians are unfairly pounding the agency in charge, the Environmental Protection Agency. Several Western...

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News Headline: Last official charged in chemical spill pleads guilty |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...but they did not succeed. Businesses and residents who struggled without clean water are closely watching several ongoing court cases that...

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News Headline: Air Force agrees to treat contaminated wells at Pease |

Outlet Full Name: New Hampshire Union Leader Online

News Text: ...? The U.S. Air Force confirmed Tuesday that it will ?comply with an Environmental Protection Agency order? to clean up...

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News Headline: Last Official Charged in Chemical Spill Pleads Guilty |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online, The

News Text: ...spill sullied tap water for 300,000 people pleaded guilty Wednesday to pollution charges and could face up to three years in prison....

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News Headline: When a River Runs Orange |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times, The

News Text: Durango, Colo. -- THE recent mining pollution spill in my corner of Colorado -- La Plata County -- is making national news for all the wrong reasons. Beyond the spill and its impact on everyone downstream, the underlying causes are far more worrisome and dangerous than just a mistake made by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Yes, it is a cruel irony that an E.P.A. contractor, while trying to clean up pollution

from old mines, instead made the problem much, much worse. The jaw-dropping before-and-after photos contrasting the pre-spill Animas River I know and love with the subsequent bright orange, acidic, heavy-metal-laden travesty are sadly accurate.

The Animas River is the heart of La Plata County. Our jobs rely on it, people the world over travel here to raft and fish it, and farmers and ranchers feed their animals and water their crops with it. But more than that, it's a member of the community. We see it every day. We play in it. We work with it. And of course we drink it. It's no overstatement to say that La Plata County as we know it would not exist without the Animas River.

The damage caused by this spill is all the more heartbreaking because it is part of a larger national and ongoing tragedy: the hundreds of thousands of inactive and abandoned mines that litter our country, thanks to the General Mining Law of 1872.

President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Mining Law when the nation (apart from Native Americans, who had already lived here for thousands of years) regarded the West as a frontier to be conquered. Governing hard-rock mining, mostly of metals like gold and copper, the law is a product of its time. It gave away public minerals (worth an estimated \$300 billion and still counting); sold mineral-bearing public lands for less than \$5 an acre; contained no environmental provisions for mining operations, and required no cleanup afterward. Apart from a few small regulatory changes in 1980, the 19th-century act is still the law of the land.

The result? A study by the environmental group Earthworks estimated that approximately 500,000 abandoned and unreclaimed mines litter the country. The E.P.A. says that mining pollutes approximately 40 percent of the headwaters of Western watersheds and that cleaning up these mines may cost American taxpayers more than \$50 billion.

Why hasn't this problem been solved, given its pervasiveness and impact?

It isn't because we don't know how. There are pilot reclamation projects around the West that have shown how to do it if we choose to. It isn't because it'll cost jobs. Montana's experience suggests that mine reclamation can create more jobs per dollar spent than mining itself.

The problem of unreclaimed, abandoned and inactive mines remains unsolved because the mining industry stubbornly obstructs meaningful attempts to reform or replace the 1872 Mining Law. As a result, there's simply not enough money to address the problem. The E.P.A. is operating on a shoestring budget. Despite this, an E.P.A. contractor was trying to reclaim the Gold King Mine because it was seriously polluting the Animas River before the spill. The E.P.A. was doing the best it could with what it had. But what it had wasn't enough.

The solution to the problem is comprehensive reform of the old law, and Congress

already has a bill before it that will do it: H.R. 963, the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act of 2015, introduced by Representative Raúl M. Grijalva of Arizona.

The new law, currently bottled up in committee, would create a fund to clean up abandoned and inactive mines by establishing an 8 percent royalty on all new hard-rock mines on public lands, a 4 percent royalty on existing mines on public lands and reclamation fees on all hard-rock mines, including those that were "purchased" for low prices under the 1872 Mining Law.

A similar system is already in place for abandoned coal mines, so there's no practical reason it can't work for hard-rock mining too. The bill would also improve both reclamation standards and requirements that mining companies financially guarantee that taxpayers aren't on the hook for cleaning up existing mines.

What happened in La Plata County this month is a tragedy. For our ranchers and farmers, for wildlife, the tourism industry and all our local residents. The Animas River is part of our everyday life, and it needs to be protected. I'm not alone in wanting to stop this reckless pollution from endangering the rest of our communities and our environment.

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News Headline: Last Official Charged in 2014 West Virginia Chemical Spill Pleads Guilty | .

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: ...of six company officials charged in a chemical spill that contaminated drinking water for 300,000 people in West Virginia has...

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News Headline: Greenwich has its own climate change committee | .

Outlet Full Name: Advocate, The

News Text: Aug. 20--A group of local residents are working to make sure Greenwich officials are alert to global climate change and its potential for environmental disaster.

The Climate Change Committee, now meeting monthly, is looking to examine what can be done in Greenwich, at the state and at the federal levels to slow climate change while promoting education and awareness.

"This may be the pre-eminent political and environmental issue of our day,"

committee member George Ubogy said Tuesday. "It is not getting significant progress on a national level ... We need to begin to address this vitally important issue which is not getting as much press as other issues but deserves to, in the long run for our next generation. We're the generation that's going to be impacting the world they live in."

Jim Fishbein, who is temporarily -- and unofficially -- serving as head of the committee, said members hope to have some concrete proposals for the town to consider once they get the groundwork done.

"We're looking at how we can reduce the heat-trapping gases and pollution that emanate from homes and businesses in the Greenwich area," said committee member Arnold Gordon, a scientist with a PhD in chemistry. "That sounds very generic and it is, but we do have very specific projects in mind that we will announce after more work has been done on them."

Gordon said national groups like The Sierra Club and The Climate Change Lobby, and nearby local groups in Stamford and Bedford, N.Y., are doing similar work. Fishbein said their group is the only one they know located in Greenwich.

"We're not inventing a wheel here," Gordon said. "But we feel we can do something to make an impact."

Committee members have met with town Conservation Director Denise Savageau and expect to have a private meeting in the near future with U.S. Rep. Jim Himes (D-4th).

"Everyone has been very cooperative, collaborative and welcoming of additional activities," Fishbein said. "It's a tremendously huge effort and it will take many, many hands to have an impact, even in Greenwich."

Committee member Gerald Pollack said falling gasoline prices are leading people to give up hybrid vehicles and re-embrace large SUVs.

"I travel on I-95 a lot and it seems to be that the conditions on that road have become demonstrably worse in the past year or so," Pollack said. "I sit there inching along and you see, as far as the eye can stretch, the cars bumper to bumper and crawling along. Think about the emissions going up into the atmosphere from automobiles that are not getting anywhere. It's a big problem"

The committee has been meeting since January, Fishbein said.

"We started out trying to answer the question of 'Is climate change real?'" Fishbein said. "We studied the science behind it to help make up our own minds on whether indeed the climate is changing. After several months of study and reading many, many materials, we came to the unanimous conclusion that it is changing and it has

changed."

New members are invited to get involved. No date for the next meeting is set, but Fishbein said interested people can email him at Jim.Fishbein1@verizon.net for more information.

kborsuk@scni.com

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News Headline: Oil lease sale western Gulf's lowest ever in bids, money |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...designed to prevent well blowouts and limits proposed Tuesday for methane emissions from oil and gas wells, he said. Oil is a cyclical...

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News Headline: Oil lease sale western Gulf's lowest ever in bids, money |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...designed to prevent well blowouts and limits proposed Tuesday for methane emissions from oil and gas wells, he said. Oil is a cyclical...

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News Headline: Shale-rich Colorado welcomes EPA methane proposals |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: Stock Market XML and JSON Data API provided by FinancialContent Services, Inc. Nasdaq quotes delayed at least 15 minutes, all others at least 20...

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News Headline: EPA Proposes Cuts To Methane Emissions At Potential Expense Of U.S. Markets |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: Stock Market XML and JSON Data API provided by FinancialContent

Services, Inc. Nasdaq quotes delayed at least 15 minutes, all others at least 20...

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News Headline: Lobster population shifting north; ocean warming blamed |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...identity, the northward shift stands as a particularly sad example of how climate change may be altering the natural range of many...

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News Headline: Climate change foes can't stand the heat of the truth: Viewpoint |

Outlet Full Name: Republican Online

News Text: July was the hottest month in recorded history, during the hottest year.

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News Headline: Climate change may have driven dog evolution |

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post Online

News Text: ...running — along the same timeline as the habitat changes caused by global warming. "It's reinforcing the idea that predators may...

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News Headline: Main Street Morning: EPA releases new rules for methane emissions |

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post Online

News Text: Welcome to Main Street Morning, The Washington Post's daily collection of news affecting entrepreneurs, start-ups and small businesses with a...

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News Headline: Appalachian Research Initiative for Environmental Science Powers Researchers the "Creek Geeks" and More |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...(ARIES) has supported more than 60 academic researchers in energy

and the environment and over 75 student researchers at Pennsylvania...

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News Headline: A Greener Way To Start School | .

Outlet Full Name: Cape Cod Today.com

News Text: ...option. Walk, carpool or take a bus to school to cut down on carbon emissions. For after school sports, don't forget your BPA-free,...

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News Headline: Future Wind opposition |

Outlet Full Name: Duxbury Clipper

News Text: ...Bay Road in Plymouth. The project, brought to the town's attention by the Alternative Energy Committee, is expected to save the town...

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News Headline: Durham to celebrate 'Drive Electric Week' Updated at 12:44 PM | .

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...Energy Committee have worked together diligently to pursue environmental sustainability in the town. "The energy committee has a master...

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News Headline: Residents dig composting program | ..

Outlet Full Name: Hampton Union - Online, The

News Text: ...Kennebunk is the third community in Southern Maine to offer the curbside recycling program, and the feedback has been excellent. Morse...

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News Headline: Another View: Ban on plastic bags is no sure bet for environment |

Outlet Full Name: New Haven Register

News Text: ...Texas passed a single-use plastic shopping bag ban in 2013, it assumed environmental benefits would follow. The calculation was reasonable...

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News Headline: Heated Air Kills Super Lice |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: ...The clinics provide guaranteed, one-and-done treatments without the use of pesticides. The emergence of super lice received national...

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News Headline: Greenwich woman begins Kickstarter for Waterbands |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate, The

News Text: Aug. 20--Tami Hatter has been to countless gatherings where people drinking water from disposable bottles or cups set them down and lose track of their own. Rather than spread germs or risk drinking another's beverage, the half-full bottles and cups are usually thrown away without a second thought.

"It's been going on for years and one day I just thought it would be fun to come up with tags of some kind to designate the bottles," Hatter said.

Hatter's displeasure with the amount of wasted water and plastic led to the development of Waterbands, reusable elastic bands with varying images that secure around almost any beverage container. The bands come in themed collections of eight or more ranging from western to breast cancer awareness.

Hatter, a Greenwich resident for 25 years, and a Nevada-based business partner were inspired by the rubber bands used to secure produce and attach labels in grocery stores. The product developed by ElastiTag is patented by Bedford Industries, the same company that makes twist ties and other package fasteners.

Following her research, Hatter contacted Minnesota-based Bedford Industries, which agreed to let her use their patent if she included the ElastiTag logo on her packaging. The company designed the bands with a water droplet tag that could be customized with different images to signify an individual's beverage.

Hatter hopes to break into the college market, and is working on a licensing agreement with Disney. A Disney license costs \$100,000, but would allow Hatter to use their characters on Waterbands and partner with Disney theme parks and stores to market and sell the product.

In an effort to help drum up some of the cash for a potential Disney license, she went to crowdfunding site Kickstarter.com. Hatter's campaign will continue through Sept.

7. If her \$20,000 goal is not met by then, anyone who has pledged money will not be charged, per Kickstarter's policies. Hatter said she will provide a set of Waterbands to anyone who backs the campaign.

In a test run, Hatter said she used Waterbands around cups at her son's birthday party.

"They're great because you can use them at any sort of gathering and it reduces a lot of waste and people don't have to worry about picking up someone else's drink or picking up germs," Hatter said.

Once the product is fully developed and in stores, Hatter said she hopes to designate a portion of the proceeds to organizations dedicated to providing clean and safe drinking water to communities around the globe.

Hatter is no stranger to the business world. She founded Romero Designs, a line of high-end, custom-made photo jewelry. She said her experience with starting a business and working for the National Football League as a producer and project manager has helped her in this new venture. But more than anything her passion for the product is what she believes will lead Waterbands to success.

"The only way you can do really great work is if you love your product and what you do," Hatter said. "I really believe in this and the causes we are supporting."

Her fundraising campaign can be found by searching Waterbands on kickstarter.com.

KKrasselt@scni.com; 203-625-4411; Twitter: @kaitlynkrasselt

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News Headline: Plaintiffs seek \$750 million in Fort Detrick pollution suit | ..

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...were caused by living near Fort Detrick. The lawsuit cites groundwater contamination from chemicals buried decades ago. It also mentions...

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News Headline: Smith Named Conservationist Of The Year Posthumously |

Outlet Full Name: Cape Cod Chronicle, The

News Text: EAST HARWICH - The Harwich Conservation Trust presented its 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award posthumously to founding trustee and president for 27 years, Robert F. Smith during its annual meeting and awards ceremony last week at the Wequassett Resort and Golf Club.

HCT's new president Tom Evans described how Smith was a natural fit for the Conservationist of the Year Award bestowed annually on someone who has actively helped protect the woods, waters and wildlife of Harwich.

"What better way to honor Bob, who has helped all of us by envisioning and guiding a land trust that has preserved hundreds of acres, protecting precious waters like Pleasant Bay, our ponds and harbors, protecting wildlife habitat, walking trails and scenic vistas for all to enjoy for a long time," Evans said.

Smith, 67, died on April 7 from complications of pneumonia and F.S.H. Muscular Dystrophy.

Evans said tributes like this are usually accompanied by a plaque or a framed certificate and a formal acknowledgment, but they are doing something different for Smith, a sort of plaque on a large scale that will be enjoyed by many people every day.

"We're pleased to announce that we will be renaming HCT's largest preserve in Bob's honor. The 66-acre Bank Street Bog Nature Preserve in the heart of Harwich Port will be renamed the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve. Bob was instrumental in quietly guiding HCT to acquire this large landscape with a diversity of habitats, including Cold Brook, which flows through the site on its way to Saquatucket Harbor on Nantucket Sound," Evans said.

"Cranberry harvesting had ceased before HCT acquired the land and HCT and our partners are actively planning a large-scale ecological restoration project for the series of long since retired bogs. That acquisition and restoration have spanned - and will span - years, and constitute a project dear to Bob and Patti Smith, Bob's wife of 46 years."

HCT Executive Director Michael Lach said Smith is missed by trustees and staff. Smith was instrumental in helping to create the "little land trust that could," Lach said. HCT has evolved as a leader among land trusts and has preserved more than 550 acres across the town, including the \$3.6 million 49-acre Pleasant Bay project just last year, he said.

The trust recognized former trustee Bill Baldwin, who also passed away this past year. Baldwin served as a trustee for 15 years.

"He had a wonderfully gentle yet resolute manner and we'll be honoring him with an engraved memorial plaque at one of his favorite sanctuaries, the Lee Baldwin

Memorial Woodlands," Lach said.

During the awards ceremony the East Harwich Community Association was also recognized as the HCT's 2015 Volunteer Group of the Year. Lach pointed out the group formed in 2004 in response to a 32lot subdivision proposed for 40 acres that threatened Pleasant Bay, drinking water and community character. He said the resolve of the volunteer group resulted in the withdrawal of subdivision plans and enabled HCT to preserve the land and nine more acres as the 49-acre Pleasant Bay Woodlands.

Lach also said EHCA initiated a multiyear collaborative with the town, Cape Cod Commission and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod to address future commercial growth in East Harwich. He said they continue to monitor rezoning proposals there with the goal of balancing growth with natural resource protection.

The membership was also treated to a dynamic presentation about the interaction among seals, sharks and fishermen in the northeast by naturalist Peter Trull. Trull has been involved in research and education for 35 years. In the 1970s and 1980s he coordinated Massachusetts Audubon Society's coastal seabird monitoring program. Through the 1990s, as a researcher and education director at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Trull developed and taught classes related to whales and marine birds and has completed more than 2,500 whale watching trips related to education and research.

Trull presently teaches seventh grade science at the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School in Harwich. He has written six books about Cape Cod natural history. His newest book, "The Gray Curtain," chronicles the dynamic interaction among gray seals, great white sharks and commercial fishermen off Cape Cod.

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News Headline: Electric-Car Battery Suppliers Narrow |

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: ...high development costs and low gas prices. But coming exhaust emissions regulations have encouraged Audi and others to bring...

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News Headline: Interior Department to lead review of Colorado river spill | .

Outlet Full Name: Boston Herald Online

News Text: ...Tuesday after elected officials from both parties questioned whether the Environmental Protection Agency should be left to...

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News Headline: Interior Department to Lead Review of Colorado River Spill |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online, The

News Text: ...Tuesday after elected officials from both parties questioned whether the Environmental Protection Agency should be left to...

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News Headline: Invasive Plants Spread Fast in Billion-Dollar Threat-Study |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online, The

News Text: ...the authors wrote. Scientists have previously estimated that all invasive species - including microbes, animals and plants -...

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News Headline: Cyanide in Waters Near China Blast Site 277 Times Acceptable Level-Government Report |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online, The

News Text: ...much as 277 times acceptable levels although they declared that the city's drinking water was safe. The local government also said...

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News Headline: Southeastern Indiana lake controls flooding, draws visitors |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: BROOKVILLE, Ind. (AP) - War was the only thing that could stand in the way of the creation of Brookville Lake on the Whitewater River in southeastern Indiana.

The Army Corps of Engineers, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938, had begun the project in 1965. But in 1968, President Richard Nixon halted Brookville Lake construction, as well as other public works projects around the country, because of the nation's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Residents of Brookville signed petitions in 1970 for the lake project to be resumed, and it was finally finished in 1974.

Ronnie Creech was growing up in Brookville when the dam was created.

"There was no opposition to the reservoir," he said. "I can remember signing a petition because they stopped working on it and to get it started again."

Of the lakes in Indiana and contiguous states, Brookville Lake is most similar to the reservoir that would be created by the Mounds Lake proposal, according to Rob Sparks, spokesman for Mounds Lake and executive director of the Madison County Corporation for Economic Development.

The Brookville Lake property, which isn't used as a water supply for surrounding communities, covers 11,185 acres and stretches more than 16 miles. The body of water covers about 5,000 acres, making it more than twice the size Mounds Lake would be.

Whitewater State Park is located on the lake near the town of Liberty, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources operates two other lake recreational areas there, as well.

The Brookville Lake boasts 35 miles of trails, two beaches, two campgrounds and a shooting range.

From the dam, the Whitewater River flows through Brookville and enters the Ohio River west of Cincinnati. An additional, 200-acre lake at the Whitewater State Park flows into Brookville Lake.

The Army Corps of Engineers controls all the property rights up to the flood plain and leases ground to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Over the years, the farmland surrounding the lake has returned to a natural state. Lush forests grow along the shore, which is mostly public land with some private property mixed in.

The 17-mile lake stretches from Liberty to Brookville and includes campgrounds, restaurants, boat repair shops, marinas, a sailboat club, taverns, a resort and an 18-hole golf course.

From some vantage points on a pontoon out on the lake, the shore is lined with trees in all directions.

A Brookville town park stands at the south end of the dam, which is 120 feet high.

Water quality tested weekly

"It's one of the deepest reservoirs in the country," said Scott Crossley, Brookville

park manager for the DNR. "The average depth is 30 feet."

As with most lakes, blue-green algae, which can be toxic to people and animals, are a problem at the Brookville Lake.

"We do have an advisory at two beaches," said Crossley, who formerly lived in Anderson. "We warn people not to drink the water and to shower after swimming. We test it every week."

For protection against exposure to algae toxins, the Indiana DNR follows World Health Organization guidelines. If the toxins reach 6 parts per billion, a recreation advisory is issued, warning people about the danger of exposure. Beaches are closed if the level reaches 20 parts per billion.

Crossley noted there's little runoff from nearby agricultural fields; most of the reservoir area is hilly, particularly near the southern part of the lake.

"It's nice that the Corps owns all the ground in the flood plain, which keeps the area from being developed for farm use," he explained.

Since the lake's completion in 1974, the state and federal government have created some wetlands and more are planned. Wetlands filter pollutants from water entering the lake.

Lake, park attract tourists

Many Hoosiers would assume that Brown County, with its brilliant fall colors and rolling hills, near Bloomington is the most-visited state park in Indiana. But Brookville draws more people in an average year.

According to Crossley, the Brookville Lake park attracts more than a million visitors annually and generated more than \$2.5 million in revenue from park receipts in 2014. The park has 800 camping sites. In good weather, all three campgrounds are usually full.

"This has been rated as the 20th-best fishing lake in the country," Crossley said. "There are walleye, small-mouth bass, muskie, stripers, large-mouth bass and crappie. Fishing is one of the prime attractions for the region."

The reservoir is stocked with 10 million walleye annually. A fish hatchery on the lake provides the popular species for other lakes operated by the Indiana DNR.

Summer months feature fishing tournaments and a bird dog trial field competition. In the fall, park attendance peaks during deer hunting season. In the winter, people come to Brookville Lake to ride sleighs and ice fish.

Melissa Browning, director of economic development, the local chamber of commerce and the department of tourism for Union County, can't offer a specific dollar amount for the local impact of tourism. But she noted that, on holiday weekends, Ind.101 has bumper-to-bumper traffic.

"We don't have a specific budget to devote to tourism, but we're working on it," she said. "I started in 2012 as a part-time position, but it's now full time. We now have dedicated money for tourism. But it took a long time to convince county government and merchants that we need to take advantage of tourism.

"Businesses wouldn't survive without the reservoir."

Browning noted that many Brookville residents choose to live there because of the lake, opting to drive long distances to work outside Union County.

According to the Stats Indiana website, in 2013, almost 40 percent of Union County's workforce commuted to jobs outside the county. By comparison, about 18 percent of Madison County's workforce travel to jobs outside the county.

A way of life for locals

Amanda Herbert, 25, grew up with Brookville Lake. Drawn by the reservoir, her grandparents had moved to the area from Hamilton, Ohio.

"My grandma used to take us fishing and boating," she said. "I don't think my grandparents would be here if the lake wasn't here."

Tina McIntyre moved to the Brookville area about 23 years ago and hikes along the top of the dam in the summer months. A trail connects her home on the west side of the lake to the trail system.

"The lake makes living here better," she said, noting that she would break down in tears if the dam were removed.

"We've stayed a small-town community with a lot of visitors, not grown into a huge city," she explained. "The tourists keep the local businesses operating and create jobs for a lot of people."

McIntyre's parents wanted to live near the lake and purchased a campground.

Standing at the overlook north of the dam on a pleasant July day, Pamela Creech looked back 40 years to the first time she stood on the property.

"My brother was born in Fairfield," she recalled. "Where he was born is now underwater."

Before the dam was created, those who had lived in the tiny village were moved to a new community that was created nearby. It was named New Fairfield. The old town of Fairfield was submerged.

Barbara Hayes, another regular hiker on the Brookville trail system, was 15 years old and living in Brookville when the dam was constructed in the 1970s.

"People couldn't believe it," she recounted. "What good is it going to do?" they asked. My dad said they would never do it. But he died the next year, and they built it."

Advice for Anderson area

Residents of the two southern Indiana communities near Brookville Lake stressed two considerations in planning for Mounds Lake: tourism and water quality.

Browning noted that investment in surrounding properties to create businesses, such as marinas, restaurants and retailers, would be essential to capitalize on the new reservoir.

"The investors are needed to make the area unique," she said. "The community has to find the right niche, which is what brings people to an area."

Browning also noted that -- in addition to boating, fishing and swimming on the lake -- the community would need to offer clean parks, entertainment and other attractions.

"You have to train the restaurant workers on how to talk to tourists," Browning said. "Local people tend to take things for granted."

In recent years, several new businesses, including restaurants, have opened to serve people using Brookville Lake. The area, according to Browning, is flourishing.

"I'd like to build to the point where we have events every weekend," she said, noting that, 40 years after the completion of the Brookville Lake dam, the community is still learning how to take full advantage of the resources the lake offers and the activity it generates.

Source: The (Anderson) Herald-Bulletin, <http://bit.ly/1K7aiXn>

Information from: The Herald Bulletin, <http://www.theheraldbulletin.com>

This is an AP-Indiana Exchange story offered by The (Anderson) Herald-Bulletin.

News Headline: Study sees dying wildlife, bigger fires if drought lasts |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The carcasses of salmon, trout and more than a dozen other newly extinct native species lie in dry streambeds around California.

Exhausted firefighters in the Sierra Nevada battle some of the biggest wildfires they've ever seen. And in Central Valley farm towns, more and more mothers hear the squeal of empty pipes when they turn on water taps to cook dinner.

A new report by the Public Policy Institute of California non-profit think-tank paints that distressing picture of California for the next two years if the state's driest four years on record stretches further into the future.

Written by water and watershed experts working at the policy center, at the University of California, Davis, and elsewhere, the report urges California to do more now to deal with what researchers project to be the biggest drought crises of 2016 and 2017 - crashing wildlife populations, raging wildfires and more and more poor rural communities running out of water entirely.

So far, of all the sectors dealing with the drought, California cities are doing relatively well thanks to the lessons of past droughts, the report concludes. Meanwhile, farms have been able to turn to pumping well water to make up for having half as much surface water for irrigation as normal.

With California wildlife, by contrast, "we're really looking at widespread crisis" if the drought continues, Ellen Hanak, director of the think-tank's water policy center, said in an interview Wednesday.

California's fresh-water habitats and forests, along with their wildlife, have experienced the most severe impacts of the drought so far, the study concluded.

Lack of water means 18 species of native California fish, including most native salmon and steelhead trout, face an immediate threat of going extinct in the wild, the report said.

Greatly reduced water deliveries to bird refuges and rice fields - the flooding of which provides crucial habitat - means there is dangerously little room and food for the 5 million migratory birds that fly through the Central Valley each year and a high risk of deadly disease for the birds, the study said.

For California's environment, officials should be thinking more strategically about how best to use what water is left for wildlife, and preparing "conservation

hatcheries" to safeguard native fish species that are on the verge of extinction in the wild, it said.

Hanak also called wildfires a tremendous risk as overgrown forests dry in the drought. Fire and forest agencies already are working to reduce the overgrowth that contributes to making those fires bigger and harder to control, researchers said.

After the environment, rural communities have been hardest-hit by the drought, the study said. As of last month, more than 2,000 domestic wells were reported to have gone dry, mostly in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. More than 100 small public-water systems around the state have been cited as needing emergency water supplies.

State and federal efforts to help those communities have been increasing but remain stop-gap, the study concluded. It urges the state to do more to track areas in need of help and come up with longer-term water supplies to replace wells that have likely gone dry for good.

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News Headline: Shaheen tours Ossipee Pine Barrens |

Outlet Full Name: Conway Daily Sun - Online, The

News Text: ...Pine Barrens Preserve to bring attention to the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Shaheen is leading Senate...

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News Headline: Former Executive Pleads Guilty in Toxic Spill in West Virginia |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times, The

News Text: CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The former president of a company whose toxic chemical spill contaminated the drinking water of more than 300,000 people last year pleaded guilty Wednesday to environmental crimes.

The former president, Gary Southern, the last of six Freedom Industries executives to plead guilty in the case, admitted guilt and negligence in three of the 15 charges against him. He faces up to three years in prison and a fine up to \$300,000.

Freedom operated a rusty chemical tank farm on the Elk River, just upstream of the intake pipes for the regional water authority. The spill on Jan. 9, 2014, of 10,000 gallons of an industrial chemical known as MCHM -- used for cleaning coal -- left parts of nine counties without water for days and even weeks. More than 100 people sought medical treatment for symptoms including nausea and vomiting.

The company declared bankruptcy days after the spill, and attention has now shifted to distributing the assets of Freedom and its officers.

One local group -- People Concerned About Chemical Safety -- had written to the court to ask that Mr. Southern and the others be forced to make restitution as part of their sentence. Maya Nye, the group's former executive director, says federal prosecutors should have demanded that.

"It's disappointing that he'll be able to maintain his financial wealth through this when the community is still recovering," Ms. Nye said.

Booth Goodwin, the United States attorney for southern West Virginia, said his office had focused on criminal charges in part because sorting out who should receive how much restitution through the criminal process would be difficult, if not impossible. And he said prison time was a much stronger deterrent.

"Executives are used to writing checks," Mr. Goodwin said. "It sends a stronger message if they have to trade their three-piece suits for a prison jumpsuit."

Mr. Southern and his lawyers declined to comment.

Much of Freedom's assets will go to cleaning up the site of its former tank farm. Claims are far outstripping assets.

In the days after the spill, when residents were told their water was unsafe for drinking and washing, confusion about the leaked chemical and its possible lingering effects left thousands struggling to get enough bottled water from the National Guard and other sources. A number of local businesses were forced to close, and many more said the crisis had caused them serious financial harm.

Mr. Goodwin said the message he wanted to send was simple: "If you place our water at risk, you face prison time."

Mr. Southern is to be sentenced in mid-December.

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News Headline: Hudson beach closed due to bacteria bacteria located |

Outlet Full Name: Telegraph Online

News Text: ...high levels of bacteria in the water. The New Hampshire Department of Environment Services issued an advisory warning after the...

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News Headline: Antibiotic-resistant 'superbug' found at California hospital |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - A Los Angeles-area hospital said Wednesday that some of its patients contracted an antibiotic-resistant "superbug" that has been linked to a type of medical scope and infected dozens of people around the country.

Huntington Memorial Hospital said in a statement that it notified public health authorities after several patients who had procedures using Olympus Corp. duodenoscopes were found to have the resistant pseudomonas bacteria.

The hospital said it has quarantined the scopes while it investigates whether they may be linked to the infections.

The statement made no mention of the total number of infected patients or their conditions.

However, the Los Angeles Times said (<http://lat.ms/1J5p3pl>) the problem was discovered in June and three patient infections have been reported to health officials.

Drug-resistant bacterial infections around the country have been linked to contamination of the reusable scopes, which are used for a procedure known as endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography. The fiber-optic scopes are placed down a patient's throat and used to diagnose and treat gallstones, blockages and cancers of the digestive tract.

"The patients who experienced the bacterial growth were very ill before they underwent the scope procedure, and the risk of the procedure was explained to each patient and family," Huntington Memorial's statement said.

A dozen infections were reported earlier this year at Cedars-Sinai and UCLA's Ronald Reagan medical centers in Los Angeles. Three patients died.

The hospitals said the infections occurred even though the devices had been cleaned to the manufacturer's standards. They have since implemented more stringent disinfection procedures.

Olympus is the market leader for duodenoscopes in the U.S., accounting for about 85 percent of sales, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

On Monday, the FDA posted a warning letter online that said Olympus waited three years to alert regulators to a cluster of 16 infections in patients who underwent procedures using the scope in 2012.

Additionally, FDA inspectors found that the company has no standard procedure for promptly reporting serious problems with its devices, a requirement for medical device companies.

The company said it was reviewing the FDA's warning.

The FDA also posted warning letters Monday to two other scope manufacturers citing problems with the testing, design, reporting and quality control of their devices.

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News Headline: Don't yank irrigation meters without study |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...have been steadily climbing in the city in anticipation of paying for wastewater treatment plant upgrades mandated by the...

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News Headline: Portsmouth requests voluntary water conservation |

Outlet Full Name: Hampton Union - Online, The

News Text: PORTSMOUTH – The Department of Public Works' Water Division is requesting all customers voluntarily conserve water due to a mechanical issue at its...

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News Headline: EPA Nominees Seen Hindered By Agency Slowing Responses To Congress |

Outlet Full Name: Inside EPA

News Text: Site License Available Economical site license packages are available to fit any size organization, from a few people at one location to...

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News Headline: Advocates Urge EPA To Strengthen Disclosure Of RMP Data In Future Rule |

Outlet Full Name: Inside EPA

News Text: Site License Available Economical site license packages are available to

fit any size organization, from a few people at one location to...

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News Headline: Greenfield could soon join cities banning plastic bags |

Outlet Full Name: Republican Online

News Text: ...local business community. Plastic bag bans are believed to help reduce environmental pollutants, as they litter landfills and could...

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